

CLAIM OR CLAIMS

I/WE CLAIM:

1. A method for providing captioned telephone service to an assisted user communicating with a hearing user, the assisted user using a telephone station to communicate with a relay having speech to text translation capability, the method comprising the steps of
initiating a telephone call over a first telephone line between the assisted user and the hearing user;
the assisted user initiating a telephone connection over a second telephone line to the relay;
transmitting the voice of the hearing user over the second telephone line to the relay so that the relay can convert the words of the hearing user into text;
transmitting the text created by the relay back to the station of the assisted user over the second telephone line; and
displaying the text to a captioned telephone display device within sight of the assisted person such that captioning of the communication session is provided to the assisted user.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of initiating the telephone call is performed by the assisted user.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of initiating the telephone call is performed by the hearing user.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting the voice of the hearing user is made through an electronic connection between the first telephone line and the second telephone line.

5. A method for providing captioned telephone service to an assisted user communicating over a first telephone line with a hearing user using a captioned telephone device, the method comprising the steps of

while the assisted user is conversing over the first telephone line with the hearing user, the assisted user operating a control on the captioned telephone device to initiate a captioning service;

the captioned telephone device initiating a telephone connection over a second telephone line to the relay;

the captioned telephone device transmitting the voice of the hearing user over the second telephone line to the relay so that the relay can convert the words of the hearing user into text;

the relay transmitting the text created by the relay back to the station of the assisted user over the second telephone line to the captioned telephone device; and

the captioned telephone device displaying the text within the sight of the assisted person such that captioning of the words spoken by the hearing user is provided to the assisted user.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting the voice of the hearing user is made through an electronic connection between the first telephone line and the second telephone line.